GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:218
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2003
TELECOM SECTOR
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;NIVEDITA MANE

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is one of the fastest growing telecommunication markets in the World;

(b) if so, the total number of landline and mobile subscribers at present of BSNL and MTNL;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to revamp the functioning of the telecom sector;

(d) whether the Government are aware of the growing imbalance in the enrolment of subscribers of BSNL between various States;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the steps taken to remove this imbalance?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DISINVESTMENT (ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 218 FOR 5TH MARCH, 2003 REGARDING TELECOM SECTOR.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total number of subscribers as on 31.01.2003 of BSNL (BharatSanchar Nigam Ltd.) and MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.) is given as under:

BSNL				MTNL			
Fixed	WLL#	Mobile	Total	Fixed	WLL#	Mobile	Total
34623307	447309	1283365	36353981	4536457	81445	240984	4858886

Wireless in Local Loop

(c) The following steps are being taken by the Government to revamp the telecom sector:-

1. Focus on introduction of wireless technologies in the customer access network.

2. Building a modern and efficient telecommunications infrastructure to meet the convergence of telecom, IT and media.

3. Strengthening research and development efforts in the country.

4. Transformation of telecommunication sector to a greater competitive environment, providing equal

opportunities and level playing field for all players.

(d) & (e): Yes, Sir. Growth of DELs (Direct Exchange Lines) in an area depends upon demand which in turn depends upon economic activity, literacy rate, commercial activities and per capita income. As a result of these factors, the enrolment of subscribers has grown at different rates in various States.

(f) To remove the imbalance, BSNL has planned enhanced efforts for the States with teledensity below the national average, subject to the availability of demand and resources.